Philosophy 49, Spring 2007, Exam #1

1. **Determine whether the following passages are arguments or non-arguments: (4 points)**

2. The United States was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. Two commercial airplanes were hijacked that day and flown into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The towers later collapsed due to the weakening of their structural integrity by the resulting fires and damage. In addition, a hijacked plane was also flown into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. A fourth and final hijacked plane was crashed into a field before it could reach its intended target.

3. Libraries are now unnecessary and should be closed. The internet has all but replaced the library as a means of gathering information and doing research. It is far faster to find information on the internet with a simple Google search than it is to pour through thousands of books on library shelves. In addition, the reference books in most libraries are hopelessly out of date, increasing the chances of poor research and/or incorrect information.

4. To make a yummy batch of Swedish Pancakes, simply do the following: First combine the flour with the salt and baking powder. Next combine the liquid ingredients: slightly beaten eggs and milk. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix well. Finally, add the melted butter to the mixture. Each pancake is made individually by placing a small amount of batter in a flat pan over medium heat. Rotate and swirl the pan around to make a flattened pancake. Serve with lingonberries and butter.

5. We should reject the proposed measure to widen Highway 1. Widening Highway 1 would not relieve the traffic congestion, which is the main argument for the measure. Adding additional lanes in select areas only may actually serve to worsen the flow of traffic, since eventually those lanes will merge back together and add to the already problematic congestion.

6. **Determine whether the following arguments are inductive or deductive: (18 points)**

7. Senator Smith has voted against increased defense funding in the past. Probably he will vote against additional funding for the war on terrorism.

8. All bachelors are unmarried men. Bob is a bachelor. Bob is

therefore an unmarried man.

9. Square A and square B have equal perimeters. They therefore have equal areas as well.

10. Bill Gates, the CEO of Microsoft, has stated that Windows Vista, the current version of Microsoft Windows, will be the best operating system ever conceived. We should therefore conclude that Windows Vista will indeed be the best operating system ever conceived.

11. A cellular telephone is like a telegraph system. Both are used for communicating over great distances. When you disconnect the wires from a telegraph system, you can no longer communicate. Therefore, when you disconnect the power cord from a cellular telephone after charging its battery, you should not be able to communicate anymore.

12. When I came home from work, I opened the door to my freezer and saw that all my ice cubes had melted. My apartment's electricity must have been off all day.

13. **Determine whether the following arguments are inductive or deductive. Evaluate the arguments for *strength/weakness*, *cogency/uncogency*, *validity/invalidity*, and/or *soundness/unsoundness*. If an answer is impossible for *you* to determine, briefly state why. (30 points)**

14. All housecats are felines. Every lion is a housecat. Therefore every lion is a feline.

15. It has never been proved that the planet Pluto is not made of green cheese. So Pluto is most likely made of green cheese.

16. If A, then B. Not A. Therefore not B.

17. All books have at least one author. The Hunt for Red October is a book. Therefore The Hunt for Red October has at least one author.

18. Philip Clayton, a leading theologian and philosopher who has written several essential works on the relationship between science and theology, has stated that the most serious problem in contemporary theology is how to find a middle-ground between pluralism and the drive toward universality. We should conclude that this is indeed the most serious problem for contemporary theology.

19. **Determine whether each of the following arguments commits a formal or an informal fallacy. If the argument commits a formal fallacy, also give the form. If the argument commits an informal fallacy, indicate which specific fallacy the argument commits. See the final page of this exam for a list of fallacies. (36 points) Extra Credit: Provide a counter-example to an invalid argument form (1 point each).**

20. Zachary's wife Catherine, who is an expert Art-Historian, has stated that philosophy is a lot of nonsensical doubletalk. Based on her claim, we should conclude this also.

21. If the war in Iraq drags on any longer, there will be a serious economic drain. If there is a serious economic drain, then the economy must be stimulated. Therefore the economy must be stimulated.

22. All things lit on fire produce noxious fumes. But Mr. Smith was recently fired. So Mr. Smith has recently begun producing noxious fumes.

23. Jimmy has argued that the war in Iraq is unjustified and leads to a decay of the United States' international reputation. But Jimmy is merely a worried father who just wants his son who is a soldier in Iraq to come home sooner. So we should reject his analysis of the war in Iraq.

24. Some children are liars. Some liars are thieves. Therefore some children are thieves.

25. Either the president will win reelection, or my grandfather will lose his temper. No one wants to see my grandfather lose his temper, so we know that the president will be reelected.

26. George said that sitting outside a café on Main Street the mountains look beautiful. The café must have one big sidewalk indeed!

27. You should try Viagra. Uncle Jim tried it and now he's very

popular at the nursing home!

28. The school board has voted to provide song-flutes to all fourth-graders for the purpose of exposing them to music. But funding an entire school orchestra will put the district way over budget. We should therefore reject and veto the school board's decision.

29. If we go hiking we will get lost. We are not going hiking. So we won't get lost.

30. There is lots of talk nowadays about stem-cell research. But human cloning is dangerous, immoral, and threatens the value of an individual human life. In addition there has not been enough research to determine the economic impact of human cloning.

31. If Newtonian physics is correct, then the orbit of the moon should be XYZ. The orbit of the moon is indeed XYZ, so Newtonian Physics is correct.

32. **Diagram the following extended argument: (12 points)**

(1) The mind and body are distinct substances. (2) This can be proved in either of two ways. First, (3) the body is divisible [it can be cut into pieces], but (4) the mind is indivisible. Second, (5) the existence of one's body can be doubted, but (6) the existence of one's mind is indubitable. After all, (7) we might be in the matrix or (8) we might be butterflies dreaming we have a human body. But in either case (9) the mind is still conscious.

Informal Fallacies:

Fallacies of Relevance:
* Appeal to Force
* Appeal to Pity
* Appeal to the People
* Ad Hominem
* Accident
* Straw Man
* Missing the Point
* Red Herring

Fallacies of Weak Induction:
* Appeal to Unqualified Authority
* Appeal to Ignorance
* Hasty Generalization
* False Cause
* Slippery Slope
* Weak Analogy

Fallacies of Presumption:
* Begging the Question
* Complex Question
* False Dichotomy
* Suppressed Evidence

Fallacies of Ambiguity:
* Equivocation
* Amphiboly

Fallacies of Grammatical Analogy:
* Composition
* Division